



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Department of Natural Resources Testimony - AB 228

Assembly Natural Resources, April 25, 2007

Diane Brookbank, Director
Bureau of Customer Service & Licensing
Department of Natural Resources

Subject: AB 228 - Transfer of Certain Fish and Game Approvals to Minors

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 228, which would allow a person who is issued an approval under the random or preference selection process to transfer their awarded approval to a minor under the age of 18.

The approvals that could be transferred include hunter's choice deer, bonus deer, bobcat, otter, fisher, Canada goose, wild turkey, sharp-tailed grouse, elk, and sturgeon spearing. The license required to utilize the transferred permit must be purchased by the minor child, unless the transferor has already paid the license fee. If a resident transfers an approval to a non-resident minor, the department will collect the difference between the fees for the nonresident and resident license. There is no rebate of the fee if a nonresident transfers a license to a resident minor. Also, a transferor of an approval may not receive any payment or other consideration for the transfer.

Currently, state statutes allow this transfer process for Bear Hunting permits. Last year, 217 customers elected to transfer their awarded Class A Bear permit to a minor. This represented 5% of the total permits issued. We currently issue approximately 255,861 permits through the random and preference drawing processes. If we estimate the same percentage of customers would transfer other permits to minors, the department would handle 12,793 transfers. It will cost the agency an additional \$10,618 to issue these new approvals via the ALIS system.

The Department supports this bill and anticipates this new benefit may promote youth participation in fish and game activities.

We have contacted Representative Gunderson's office about one minor change that should be made to this bill that will give youth a better opportunity to take advantage of this transfer process. We are recommending that the deadline date for customers to submit a request for transfer be changed in Section 29.179(2) to 15 days prior to the applicable open season rather than by the specific August 15th date currently in the bill language.

Lastly, some concerns have been expressed from the Sturgeon Advisory Committee. Joe Hennessy from Fisheries is here to share their concerns.